

Foreign Press Note

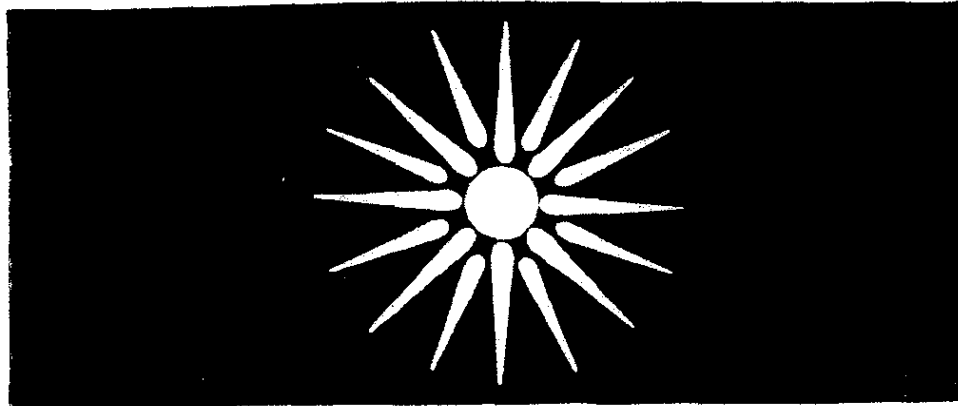
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MACEDONIA: New National Flag and Anthem



On 12 August, the Skopje daily NOVA MAKEDONIJA displays the new Macedonian national flag on its front page. In the center of the flag, against a red background, there is a 16-pointed gold star. According to an accompanying article, the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Movement for National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE) initially favored the lion rampant, a medieval Slavic emblem, but eventually acceded to the will of the other parties, which objected to it on the grounds that it was a party symbol. The article goes on to say that the two parties representing the Albanian minority, the Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP) and the National Democratic Party (NDP), boycotted the parliamentary session that formally adopted the flag and anthem. According to a joint PDP-NDP press conference, reported on page 3 of the same issue of NOVA MAKEDONIJA, the Albanian parties considered the flag inappropriate because it reflected the historical experience of only one nationality. The Albanian parties also objected to the national anthem, claiming it was "communistic" and "extolled the struggle of only one nationality." The article reports that debate over the state seal continues.

ДЕНЕС НАД МАКЕДОНИЈА

Денес над Македонија се
раѓа
ново сонце на слободата,
Македонците се борат
за својте правдини!

Одново сега знамето се вее
на Крушевската Република,

Гоце Делчев, Питу Гули,
Даме Груев, Сандански.

Горите македонски шумно
пејат

нови песни, нови весници:
Македонија слободна,
слободна живее!

(Over for translation)

Foreign Broadcast Information Service, Production Group

East Europe Branch

Today Over Macedonia

Today over Macedonia rises
A new sun of freedom.
Macedonians are fighting
For their rights!

Now, once more waves the flag
Of the Krushevo Republic,
Gotse Delchev. Pitu Guli,
Dame Gruev, Sandanski.

The Macedonian forests loudly sing
New songs, new tidings:
Macedonia the Free
Lives Free,